

JAN 3 1955

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-R

ANOTHER 'CONFESSION'

American Civilians in China

HONGKONG, JANUARY 2.

The Communist New China News Agency said to-day that an American civilian imprisoned for life as a spy had admitted in a "written deposition" that his plane was shot down in North-east China while trying to pick up an agent dropped there the previous month.

The agency issued the alleged deposition in which the American, John Thomas Downey, said he worked for the United States Central Intelligence Agency in Japan and was in charge of the training of a group of spies who were later parachuted into China. He was sentenced last November, when Richard George Fecteau, also described as a special agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, was sent to prison for twenty years. The two were sentenced at the same time as the eleven American airmen whose plane was shot down near the Korean-Manchurian border in January, 1953.

Downey's alleged statement said he and Fecteau were in a C-47 plane, carrying no markings, which flew from Seoul across the Chinese border on the night of November 29, 1952, to pick up an agent who had been parachuted into N.E. China the previous month.

Reuter.

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b